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## UD Military Technology Expert Says Prepare for 'New War'

University of Dayton

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Contact: Jim Pickering  
pickering@udayton.edu

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## NEWS RELEASE

### UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON RELIGIOUS LEADER IMPLORES THE SPIRITUALLY SHAKEN TO KEEP FAITH

**KEEPING ONE'S FAITH** — In light of the death and destruction wrought by last week's terrorist attacks, questioning one's faith will be inevitable for many Americans, says a University of Dayton religious leader.

"Even Jesus had his moments of doubt when he uttered, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" says the Rev. James L. Heft, S.M., chancellor and professor of faith and culture at UD. "So it isn't surprising that we also question God's providence as our shepherd and whether he will take care of us."

Heft adds, "It may be difficult at times, such as right now, to believe that good will come out of this — especially when so many innocent people have suffered. But we must hold onto a universal affirmation found in all religions, that good will triumph over evil."

Instead of "clenching our fists we must open our hands in prayer, and not be consumed by despair or destroyed by anger," says Heft, who last week organized an interfaith meeting among Dayton-area religious leaders to address moral issues associated with the attacks. "It doesn't mean we have to be a doormat for evil. Anger has a purpose, but it must be directed toward doing what is right. It must be linked to justice and to correcting what is wrong."

Heft says religion is a "powerful reality and can be used to justify evil acts or doing great things for humanity." He entreats those whose spirituality has been shaken: "Now, more than ever, is the time to renew your faith. Now is the time to understand that your faith can do great things for humanity. It's your choice."

For media interviews, contact **Father James L. Heft, S.M.**, at UD at (937) 229-2105 or via e-mail at [James.Heft@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:James.Heft@notes.udayton.edu).